

and ball fields for his family -- indeed, few wealthy people can. Land is expensive, so most people buy a small lot on which to build. Usually, only a small yard can be provided at best, and it is often landscaped and planted with trees. Developments spring up covering completely whole sections, with no land set aside for recreation and park areas.

How are the recreation needs of these people to be met? Today all levels of government generally accept responsibility for providing the public with open space for recreation. The Federal Government, through the new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation is coordinating efforts of various departments to provide additional national recreation areas. State agencies have been developing parks and other areas to be used for recreation, not only to meet the demand from residents but also to attract tourists. Nearly every important city in the country has a program for the acquisition and development of new land to meet rising demand. Public areas supplement the private and commercial recreation areas and give everybody a place to go and something to do.

Advantages of Public Recreation

Why should public recreation be provided? What are its advantages to a community?

- First and foremost is the fact that public recreation provides programs in which any person in the city can participate, regardless of age, sex, race and social or economic status. Average family income for about 60% of Albemarle's families is presently under \$5,000 per year. The needs of these people are largely unmet by the YMCA, country clubs, and commercial areas. They must use such public areas as are available, or do without constructive recreation.
- It has been proven many times that a wholesome public recreation program helps deter juvenile delinquency and crime. Young people have more leisure time and less home responsibilities and chores than ever before in history. Teen-agers will find something to do, whether it is wholesome or not. A well-organized public recreation program can provide an outlet for their energies.